

BRIGHTSTAR



OCTOBER 2009

*Brightstar is the newsletter of Seaton Road Methodist Church
Seaton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9BT.*

*Contact the minister, Revd David Kemble, on 282023
or email via our website - www.seatonroad.org.uk*

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting if not whirlwind start to ministry in the Felixstowe section of the Ipswich Methodist circuit. So many new people to get to know, places and groups to visit and a lovely manse to make into a home!

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. I know we have mentioned this before but your gifts of food, vouchers, greetings and loving care has made us feel very much at home – we keep asking ourselves if we really did have another life other than here in this wonderful part of God's world? The early church according to Acts chapter 2 shared their material wealth with each other and enjoyed times of close fellowship – key attributes which forged a great team of Christians. This team also met together to pray and seek the Lord's guidance in their work, the results of which were staggering as hundreds of people were attracted by what they saw and experienced.

We are in the process of managing a great deal of change within the Ipswich circuit and in our local churches and communities. As you may be aware we have reduced the number of ordained ministers by one which means some creative thinking has been needed in looking at how we minister in the future! The use of lay staff for administrative and pastoral work will be necessary. However, it's not all about trying to cover what we have enjoyed in the past but where God is leading us in the future.

I do believe God is moving his people to seek new ways of being church! New ways of sharing our faith! New ways of testifying to a God of Love who paid the ultimate price of a cruel death on the cross for all our sakes! May His Holy Spirit inspire and challenge us to make this known to those we are called to serve. God is on the move and I pray we will follow wherever he leads us!

David



Can church really be
this good?

WORSHIP

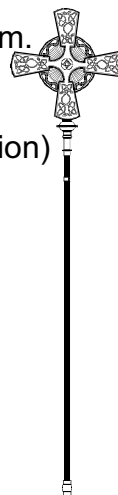
Sunday 4th October
9.45am Nicola Glasse

Sunday 11th October
9.45am Cafe Worship, breakfast from 9.15am.

Sunday 18th October
9.45am Revd David Kemble (Holy Communion)

Sunday 25th October
9.45am Revd Barry Middleton

Sunday 1st November
9.45am Revd David Kemble
6.00pm Remembering Service at Trinity



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council meeting is on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm Everyone is welcome to attend

ADVANCE NOTICE

The 2010 Circuit Arts & Crafts Festival will take place at Museum Street, Ipswich on Saturday 27th March. Please book the date now. A new schedule is on the noticeboard, and more information will be in the November Brightstar

HARVEST & THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

Thank you to everyone who supported the Whitechapel Mission in London by donating food and toiletries during our Harvest celebrations. Whitechapel was founded in 1876 and since then has been caring for the poor and homeless of London in their struggle against hunger, poverty, disease and prejudice - explore www.whitechapel.org.uk to find out more.

Thanks also to groups and individuals who decorated the church, especially Brownies, Playschool, Parents and Toddlers, FUNKY, Computer Club, Archie Mayes, Upper Room Fellowship and Lunch Club who each decorated a windowsill. The result was a varied, attractive and often thought provoking display, looking and smelling very 'harvesty'

It was good to see so many people sharing in the morning service, especially those from Brownies and Playschool. I know we will not forget the story of 'Stone Soup' and pray that we will share and combine our possessions, efforts and talents to spread the word of God's love for us all.

To end, I would like repeat some of the words of the hymn, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, we sang at the September Café Worship and also our Harvest service. I found them very powerful and pray that as a church we may receive God's bread, share it and be richly blest as we serve Him.

Where is Bread? We know their yearning;
Every day, we wish for more.
God, in time, we're slowly learning:
All we own can make us poor.
Our possessions can possess us,
Leaving hunger deep inside.
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;
At your feast, we're satisfied.

"Where is bread?" the call is rising;
Millions cry who must be fed.
God, your answer seems surprising:
"You, my Church, you give them bread."
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,
Bread for hungry stomachs, too!
Give us bread and help us share it.
Richly blest, may we serve you.

Mary

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 5th December 2-4pm

Once again we are holding a Christmas bazaar. We shall need plenty of help on the day – please put the date in your diary. It helps if you let the organising team know you will be there and what you would like to do.

We have started collecting items for the tombola – toiletries, groceries, etc. Please put items in the boxes that will be appearing at the back of the church. We are also on the lookout for CDs, DVDs, toys and jigsaws. We shall need bric-a-brac – so start looking stuff out now - but if you can please hold on to it until nearer the time. There will be a cake stall so consider baking and freezing to avoid a rush nearer the time.

The next planning meeting is on Wednesday 14th October at 7.30pm at Daryl's. Everyone is welcome to share their ideas and help us raise money.

Malcolm

WELCOME TO DAVID AND ELIZABETH KEMBLE

Although our new minister David, and his wife Elizabeth, moved to Felixstowe during August, David's appointment did not start until 1st September and the official Circuit welcome took place on 6th September at Trinity. As Methodists we do seem to enjoy fellowship and food and this was evident by the large number sharing tea, provided by the section churches, preceding the service.

Even more people gathered for the service itself and Trinity's stewards did a splendid job of finding seats for everyone! The service, led by the Chair of the East Anglian District the Rev. Graham Thompson, was attended by David and Elizabeth and their family, Anna, Mike, James and Alex, Pippa and Grace, David's parents and a group from their church, Elizabeth's mum, and also friends from Irchester (David's previous church). There were also members and friends from the four churches of the Felixstowe section, the Mayor of Felixstowe, representatives from Churches Together in Felixstowe and other churches in Felixstowe, the Port of Felixstowe as well as ministers and friends from the Ipswich Methodist Circuit.

It was an uplifting service and a good way to welcome David and Elizabeth to their work here in Felixstowe. Since then we have had the chance to meet them both at various services and meetings at Seaton Road and already feel as if they have been here much longer than a month.

David and Elizabeth we are so pleased you accepted the invitation to come to Felixstowe. It is good to have you here and we pray that your time in Felixstowe, Trimley and Kirton will be a time of blessing as we share our Christian journey together.

OCTOBER PRAYER DIARY

Sunday 4 th	Our Minister, Rev David Kemble, and his wife, Elizabeth
Monday 5 th	Our Computer Groups meeting on Mondays and Thursdays
Tuesday 6 th	Our Women's Own
Wednesday 7 th	Our Superintendent Minister, Rev Alan Taylor and the Circuit Leadership Team
Thursday 8 th	Upper Room Fellowship
Friday 9 th	Members of our Fellowship who are housebound
Saturday 10 th	The people who live in the neighbourhood of our Church
Sunday 11 th	Cafe Worship, those who lead and those who come
Monday 12 th	Our Parent and Toddler Group
Tuesday 13 th	The Walking for Health Initiative in Suffolk and particularly in Felixstowe
Wednesday 14 th	The Committee meeting to organise our Church Bazaar
Thursday 15 th	Our Church Lunch Club
Friday 16 th	Seaton Road Playgroup
Saturday 17 th	Our Local Preachers preparing for tomorrow's services
Sunday 18 th	The Mime Workshop at Elmsett
Monday 19 th	The Brownie group who meet on our premises
Tuesday 20 th	Those involved in the work of Level Two
Wednesday 21 st	The work of Rev Michael Allen, Paul Taylor and FTCCOP
Thursday 22 nd	The work of the Felixstowe Christian Youth Worker
Friday 23 rd	Our Pastoral Co-ordinator, Heather Bentley, and all our Pastoral Friends
Saturday 24 th	The other Churches in the Walton area
Sunday 25 th	Those who work with the children in our FUNKY Group
Monday 26 th	Our Badminton Club
Tuesday 27 th	Felixstowe Town Council
Wednesday 28 th	Our Bible Study Group meeting tomorrow evening
Thursday 29 th	Our morning service and Coffee Morning
Friday 30 th	Those of our Fellowship going through difficult times
Saturday 31 st	The other Churches in our Section, Trinity, Trimley and Kirton